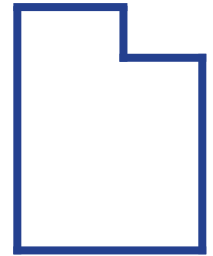


# Healthy Lands Initiative

UTAH



## Quick Facts: Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative is a collaborative effort by the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (Utah PCD) to restore the health of ecosystems on the public lands. Utah PCD conducts projects that protect wildlife and sensitive species habitat, restore water quality and quantity, and prevent and eradicate encroachment by invasive species.

Utah is the first state to implement widescale on-the-ground projects and has served as a model both for other states and countries who have expressed an interest in implementing similar plans. Utah serves as a model for utilizing a partnership approach to implement watershed restoration on a broad scale.

<b>Creation of the Utah PCD</b>	2003
<b>Impetus of the Utah PCD creation</b>	A multi-year drought that was having significant effects on watershed, wildlife, grazing, and sensitive species habitat.
<b>Focus areas of projects</b>	Sagebrush ecosystems, encroaching pinyon juniper woodlands, habitat for sensitive species and wildlife, such as sage grouse and mule deer.
<b>Types of treatments</b>	Removal of invasive species, reseeding of native plants, thinning of overgrown pinyon juniper areas, fencing projects, conversion of old age decadent shrub systems to earlier succession diversity, green stripping to prevent fire hazards, and administrative actions (adjustments in 'seasons of use' and numbers for cattle, OHV restrictions, stipulations on permits to develop water resources, limitations on permit user events on public lands)
<b>Projects completed</b>	262 (500,000 acres)
<b>Projects planned</b>	approximately 630
<b>Funding since 2003 by partners</b>	\$25 million (includes projects, infrastructure, research, monitoring, and equipment purchases)
<b>Funding earmarked in the proposed 2008 federal budget</b>	\$2 million
<b>Additional acres to be treated as a result of the proposed funding</b>	80,000 acres, which will increase with other partners' contributions

### Impacts of increased federal funding and potential additional state funding

- Long term planning and monitoring of watershed projects
- More timely completion of projects (preventing problems from exacerbating)
- Equipment purchases (including Dixie Harrows and Rangeland Drills)
- Cost savings of bulk seed purchasing through expansion of seed storage facilities.
- Potential for buying more seed from Utah producers, due to a sustained market need.

Partners participating in projects in addition to Utah PCD: approximately 75 organizations and individuals, including Trout Unlimited, the Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Audubon Society, Utah Farm Bureau, the Northern Ute Tribe, among many others.